

TF Standard VIII Reflection

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### **Leadership and Vision**

Serving as a director in the area of software management has presented many visionary opportunities. Those opportunities also needed leadership skills to realize the goals of future technology implementation. Standard VIII describes how technologists lead others in creating a research-based vision and developing a long-range strategic plan moving the vision into reality (Williamson & Redish, 2009). This statement brings to light the focus of the standard and drives home the point that leadership and vision must go hand in hand. Standard VIII covers the differences between management and leadership qualities. Management produces order and consistency where leadership produces change and movement. Each role is vital and consists of three major responsibility areas.

During the study of this standard I began to identify the responsibilities areas I felt were attached to leadership. Some of my thoughts centered on what I felt would be management tasks. I learned my thought was not truly aligned to the standard. I had to make adjustments and I had to apply those adjustments. I had to return to research-based decision making and not rely on history and personal opinions. The result of these changes was not only success for me but also our department. The change from managing to leading was not easy. I had to concentrate on movement with a focus on the vision. The vision had to align with the people. The people had to be motivated and inspired. The results were leadership and vision.

The knowledge gained during this time was invaluable to me as a director and a person. The skills I acquired not only apply to work but at church and elsewhere. One of the statements during a weekly reading came to mind during this time. Charting new territory can be exciting but also quite frightening when beginning a journey in which you are unfamiliar with both the terrain and your final destination (Dana, 2009). This statement reflects how I felt as a director of

our department. It also reflected how I felt as a Sunday school teacher of the high school class. The changes I needed to make as a person and director were unsettling and I was unsure of the outcome.

I have always had a tremendous passion for the software we support. I have been connected with it for almost thirty years and hope to continue that connection until I retire. This passion is shared with many colleagues and I was able to draw from them the experiences they shared. One of the most important areas of sharing centered on moving our product from client-based to web-based. Even though this territory was uncharted by our programmers it was not new in the world of technology. In 2009, Bissonette's study concluded one thing is certain: Technology is a part of 21<sup>st</sup>-century education. Knowing and understanding the arrival of technology in education is important. Applying this information to leadership and vision will be equally important to my success as a director and person.

## References

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- Williamson, J., & Redish, T. (2009). *ISTE's technology facilitation and leadership standards: what every K-12 leader should know and be able to do*. Eugene, Or: International Society for Technology in Education.